

Petition Inpatient Hospice – 6
Received Regarding Proposed 2008 State Medical Facilities
Plan

Attached are:

1. Petition from Angel Hospice and Palliative Care.
2. Written comments received.

PETITION FOR AN ADJUSTED NEED DETERMINATION FOR HOSPICE INPATIENT BEDS FOR MACON COUNTY

Petitioner:

Angel Hospice and Palliative Care
170 Church Street
Franklin, NC 28734

DFS Health Planning
RECEIVED

AUG 01 2007

MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

Requested Change:

Angel Hospice and Palliative Care (AHPC) seeks to provide comprehensive hospice care for terminally ill patients in Macon and Swain counties. By this petition, AHPC requests that the State Health Coordinating Council adjust the need determination reflected in the 2008 State Medical Facilities Plan for Hospice Inpatient Bed Need to identify the need for six hospice inpatient beds in Macon County. AHPC further requests that the Council consider their proposal to build a freestanding hospice facility with six hospice inpatient beds and four hospice residential beds.

About the Petitioner

Angel Hospice and Palliative Care is a hospital based Home Care Agency and is a department of Angel Medical Center. AHPC is Medicare and Medicaid Certified and is Joint Commission Accredited. AHPC is also a Member of the North Carolina Association of Home Care, the National Hospice Organization, and the Hospice of the Carolinas.

Justification For An Adjustment of Need for Inpatient Hospice Beds in Macon County

Need for Access to Inpatient Hospice Beds in Macon County

Based on the current need methodology, the 2007 SMFP shows there is a projected need determination for four hospice inpatient beds for Macon County but no need for an inpatient hospice facility. However there are a number of reasons that justify an adjustment to six inpatient beds to provide for a freestanding hospice facility in our area:

- Patients receiving inpatient services at AMC who would meet the requirements for placement in a hospice inpatient facility upon discharge are seldom offered that option due to limited or no access to this health service. Mountain Area Hospice, our closest hospice inpatient facility, is located 75 miles or more from the majority of hospice patients served in Macon County. This same facility reports occupancy of 90.8% in the 2007 SMFP. Macon County patients in need of hospice inpatient services are usually denied access to this option and must settle for less than optimal placement due to the long distance patients and families must travel and the lack of available capacity.

- Macon and surrounding counties have seen a huge increase in our retiree population further increasing the need for an inpatient hospice facility. According to the NC State Data Center, US Census data for 2000 indicates that 22.4 percent of the population of Macon County is age 65 or older compared to only 12.0 percent of the population in North Carolina aged 65 or older. And while North Carolina saw an increase in population between 1990 and 2000 of 21.4 percent, Macon County's growth rate was 26.8 percent.
- In addition to Macon County, Angel Hospice also serves patients in Swain, Graham and Clay counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation. While there is no available data for the Cherokee Indian Reservation, Graham County shows a projected inpatient bed deficit of zero (0) and Cherokee, Clay, Jackson and Swain County each show a projected deficit of one hospice inpatient bed (Table 1). The total projected need for the six western counties is 8 inpatient beds. The 2007 SMFP totals show that 28.64% of deaths in Macon County were served by hospice. The same figures for other counties served by AHPC are: Swain 19.67%, Graham 6.06 %, and Clay 13.16% and figures for nearby counties show the rates for Jackson at 31.55% and Cherokee at 15.06%. It has been shown that the availability of a hospice inpatient facility increases the number of patients who choose this option for end-of-life care.

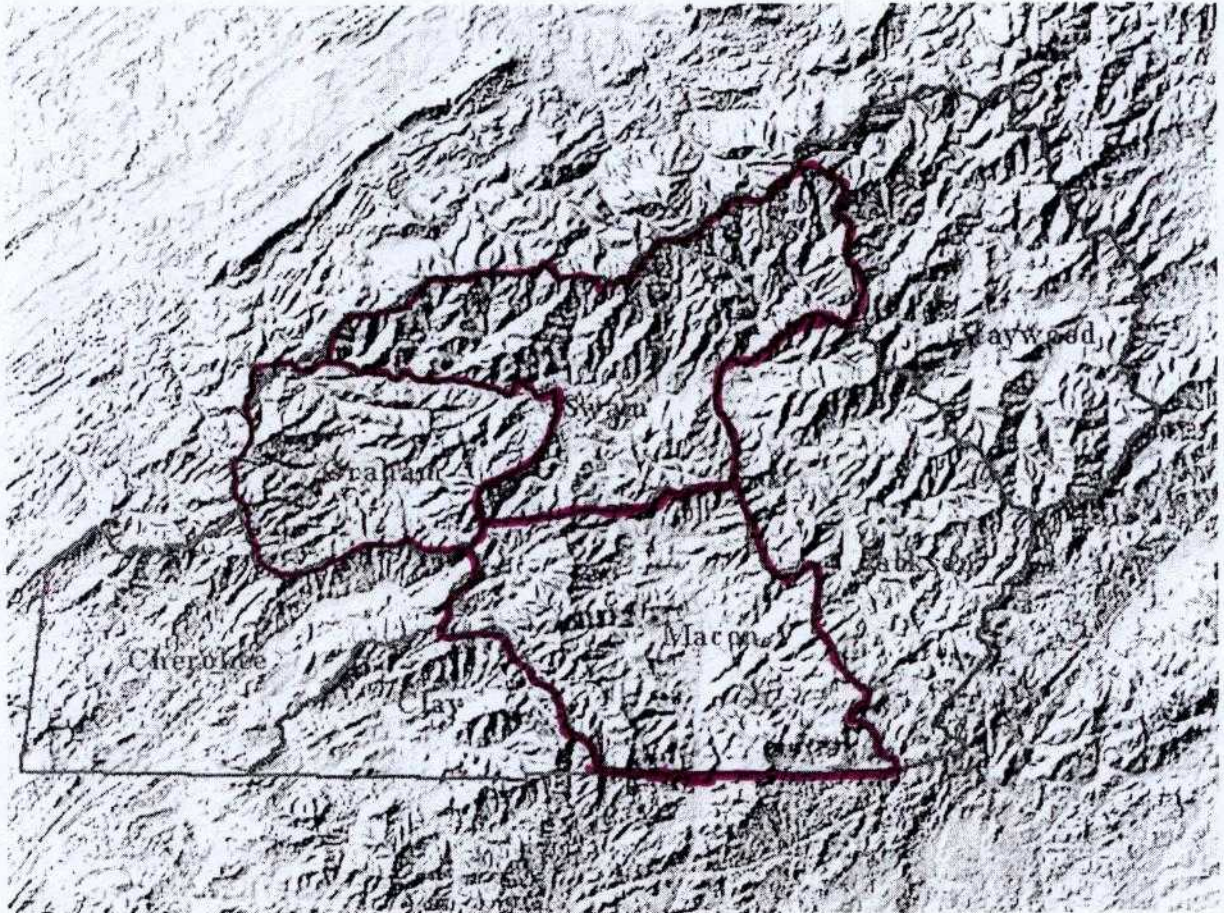
TABLE 1

County	Macon	Jackson	Swain	Clay	Cherokee	Graham
Total Days of Care	9,368	5,219	3,362	3,285	4,840	513
2005 Population (Excluding Military)	32,540	35,748	13,584	9,859	26,173	8,120
Hospice Days of Care per 1000 Pop.	287.89	145.99	247.50	333.20	184.92	63.18
2010 Projected Population	35,512	37,754	14,308	10,732	27,996	8,357
Estimated Days of Care	10,224	5,512	3,541	3,576	5,177	528
Estimated Inpatient Days	818	441	283	286	414	42
Projected Inpatient Bed Deficit	4	1	1	1	1	0

Source: Table 13C: Year 2010 Hospice Inpatient Bed Need Projections for the 2007 Plan

- An inpatient facility will help family members when care needs go beyond the capabilities of the family caregiver(s). Even with the support of home health or home hospice care, family members frequently report that they cannot cope with the special demands of the situation. In 2007 there were many AHPC patients who requested or needed inpatient care but none was available. Hospice inpatient beds are sorely needed in Macon County to assure all patients, especially the underserved patients who are most vulnerable to limited resources and abilities, have access to this essential end-of-life health service.
- Macon County covers 517 square miles of mountainous terrain and our geography is an important factor to consider in determining the need for an inpatient facility. Travel times in the mountains are longer and more difficult than in other parts of the state, especially for elderly patients and caregivers. There are no hospice inpatient facilities in

the six westernmost counties of NC, an area of 2047 square miles with a population of over 125,000. According to the Inventory of Hospice Residential Beds in the SMFP there are no hospice residential beds in these counties. Macon County is centrally located to the multi county service area of AHPC. (Map 1)



MAP 1 Macon County is centrally located within the AHPC service area.

Mileage from:

Franklin (Macon County) to Asheville	75 miles
Bryson City (Swain County) to Franklin	31 miles
Robbinsville (Graham County) to Franklin	50 miles
Hayesville (Clay County) to Franklin	37 miles
Cherokee Reservation (Jackson County) to Franklin	29 miles

- As described in the 2007 SMFP, the State's current need determination projections are based on a six-bed deficit threshold for single counties to trigger a need for inpatient hospice beds. Angel Hospice petitions for an adjusted need determination for an inpatient hospice facility in Macon County based on the combined contiguous county deficits of 4 hospice inpatient beds in Macon County and one hospice inpatient bed each in Clay, Cherokee, Jackson and Swain counties.

Approval of this petition will allow Angel Hospice the opportunity to submit a Certificate of Need application to develop a freestanding inpatient hospice facility. Should the adjusted need determination be granted, Angel Hospice would like to include six residential beds with the four inpatient beds to create comprehensive hospice services in Macon County that will serve residents in Macon and Swain counties as well as residents of other contiguous counties including Jackson, Clay and Graham counties, and Rabun County in Georgia.

Although the projected need for inpatient hospice beds in the 2007 SMFP shows a zero deficit for Graham County, and a deficit of only eight inpatient beds by combining the needs of Macon (4), Jackson, Clay, Cherokee and Swain counties (1 each), the six far western counties nevertheless have a need for this facility. With such low projected needs and a six-bed deficit threshold, the feasibility of providing an inpatient hospice facility in the far west appears unlikely in the near future. However, the lengthy process involved in building such a facility speaks to the need to start such a process. A growing population, a large number of retirees moving to this area, strong community support, an increasing use of hospice services, a lack of other facilities in the area, and our special geographic considerations are all factors we ask the Council to consider in this petition. A comprehensive inpatient hospice facility in Macon County could serve the immediate needs of the far western region.

Need for Cost Effective Approaches to Health Services

Patients admitted to and cared for in a hospice inpatient facility incur significantly less cost to Medicare than those admitted to acute care centers. Additionally, some hospice patients require frequent readmissions for acute care services. Angel Medical Center is focused on providing an environment directed to acute, life-saving interventions versus the palliative and supportive care of a hospice patient in need of temporary remedies. Currently, readmissions of hospice patients must be managed in an environment that is not only more costly but is also not the most appropriate environment for most hospice patients. Acute care services provided in a hospice inpatient bed have been proven to be more cost-effective and appropriate than acute care services provided to hospice patients in other settings.

Need for Quality Health Services

Quality healthcare services have been defined as the right care, at the right time, in the right place for the right patient. Acute care services provided in hospitals are not generally geared to the unique needs of hospice patients and their families. Macon County needs an inpatient hospice facility to assure the continuum of quality hospice services are available for those patients that need and select this option of end-of-life healthcare.

Community support is also vital to assuring a quality healthcare service is developed and sustained in a service area. The community support for a hospice inpatient facility in Macon County has been overwhelming as the letters included with this petition demonstrate. The non-profit Angel Hospice Foundation has also been created with a mission to provide funding and ongoing support to a hospice inpatient facility in Macon County.

Alternatives to the Proposed Adjustment in Need Determination

One alternative to the development of a hospice inpatient facility in Macon County would be to continue to use AMC acute care beds and referrals to area nursing facilities. AMC beds are designed and needed for high acuity patients. Continuing to use AMC inpatient beds for hospice inpatient services is inappropriate and only reinforces the gap in access to quality, cost-effective hospice care in Macon County.

Another alternative would be the development of enhanced palliative care services in AMC. Angel Hospice Foundation and AMC have developed a hospice respite bed at AMC, however certain issues such as bed availability, access to a full-range of quality options, and cost-effectiveness still remain. These alternatives do not fully address the need for access to hospice inpatient beds and the development of more cost-effective approaches to end-of-life care. Maintaining the status quo or building on existing programs cannot fully support the community's need or commitment to a hospice inpatient facility.

Evidence That Need Adjustment Would Not Duplicate Health Resources

An adjustment to the hospice inpatient need determination for Macon County would not present any unnecessary duplication of health resources. The 2007 SMFP reports that the hospice inpatient facility in Buncombe County experiences a 90.8% occupancy rate and that this facility reported that none of their patient days were from Macon County. Macon County has a significant gap in access to hospice inpatient beds that is not being met by any other facility.

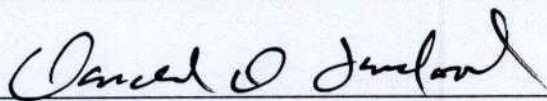
Conclusion

In summary, the lack of hospice inpatient beds to serve the number of patients who would benefit from such services can be addressed by adjusting the need determination for hospice inpatient beds in Macon and Swain counties. AHPC respectfully requests that an adjustment be made to the need determination in the 2008 SMFP to identify the need for an inpatient hospice facility with six Hospice Inpatient beds in Macon County.

This the 29th day of July 2007.

Director
Angel Hospice and Palliative Care
Angel Home Health

Angel Hospice and Palliative Care is a distinct service line operated and provided by Angel Medical Center. The Medical Center is strongly committed to the provision of Hospice Services to citizens of Macon County. While we are not prepared to be solely responsible for all operational costs of a freestanding facility at this time, we are actively negotiating with the Angel Hospice Foundation to seek ways to fund this new service. Please contact me with any questions.


Donald D. Sandoval, FACHE, CEO
Angel Medical Center

July 25, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T. J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Main Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

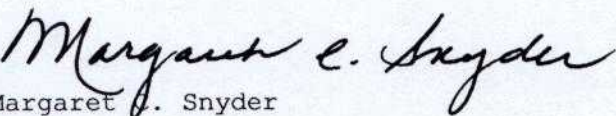
Gentlemen:

This letter is written in support of the need for a Hospice Inpatient Facility to be located in Franklin, North Carolina. Currently the nearest inpatient facility is in Asheville, North Carolina. There are many who live west of Asheville that could be more conveniently assisted if a facility were here. Macon County is a good location readily accessible to the surrounding counties. A Hospice Inpatient Facility could be of great benefit to those terminally ill as well as their families.

My family has been the recipient of the wonderful care and compassion given by the Hospice people. We know from experience the help provided was of value beyond measure. Fortunately, we were able to keep our Father at home until the end. Other families may not be able to do the same or may need short term assistance.

Please give great consideration to this worthy need for an inpatient facility to be located in Franklin.

Sincerely,


Margaret E. Snyder

July 20, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term and Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I wish to express my interest in an inpatient hospice facility for Macon County, North Carolina. We are so fortunate to have the home services now provided by Angel Hospice in our county, but there is a great need for people without family members who can provide 24/7 care in their last days.

My family's experience with Angel Hospice was a blessed time, my Father was able to remain at home and have all the love and care he needed in his final days and at the same time we as family members received wonderful physical and spiritual help. I cannot say enough good things about hospice.

I would ask you to please consider this need, since there is no inpatient hospice facility west of Asheville, North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth C. Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Elizabeth C. Hall

July 25, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term and Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Mr. Pulliam:

I am writing this letter in support of the drive to establish a Hospice House in Franklin. I believe this would be very beneficial not only to Macon County, but also the entire western region of the State south of Asheville. I am sure there are caregivers who face a real dilemma when work or other demands take them out of town overnight. There are also times when it is impossible to care for a loved one without the help Hospice provides. I experienced this when my mother, whom I care for, and I both had a virus. From my experience with the great work Hospice does, I am sure any patient would receive the very best of care

I hope you will sincerely consider the establishment of a Hospice House in Franklin.

Thank you.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Revena Shuler".

Revena Shuler

July 25, 2007

Dr. T. J. Pulliam, Chair
Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee
State Health Coordinating Council
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

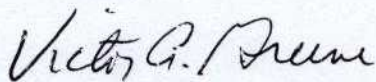
The Angel Hospice Foundation hopes to build an inpatient hospice house in our community to serve both Macon County and surrounding counties, as well. There is no such facility in our state west of Asheville.

Angel Hospice strives to provide the highest level of care for our patients and their family members. Ideally we assist families to care for their loved ones in the relative comfort and familiarity of their own homes. On occasion, however, this is impossible. Sometimes the patient's spouse is too infirm to provide adequate care. Sometimes the caregiver must go away for a short period. Sometimes the multiple needs of the patient overwhelm the caregiver.

For the past fourteen years I have been involved in hospice work in some capacity. I have observed and have experienced personally just how difficult caring for a dying loved one can be. No inpatient hospice facility was available when my mother was terminally ill, suffering from dementia and a series of strokes. Hospitals, nursing homes, and a patient's own homes all can help to meet the needs of someone in hospice. Unfortunately, the absence of an inpatient facility is like offering a bed missing one of its four legs.

I deeply appreciate your consideration of this important need. Many people stand to benefit from a hospice house here in Macon County, most of all those folks who are experiencing the greatest needs with the least support.

With thanks,



Victor A. Greene, D. Min.
Chaplain, Angel Hospice

July 25 2007
100 old mill rd
Franklin, NC 28734

Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

This letter is To Support the
Need for a INpatient Hospice House to
Serve All Counties West of
asheville, NC To Meet the Needs
of Hospice patients & their families
with terminal illness.

Thank you
Madye B Shepard

July 24, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Mr. T. J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27669

Dear Mr. Pulliam,

Please be advised that I firmly support the Angel Hospice Foundation in their efforts to establish a Hospice inpatient facility in Macon County. I have experienced the care and compassion given to my family member by the Angel Hospice staff. At the end of my aunt's life, she was placed in a nursing home since we could not provide the care she needed at home. She wanted her hospice nurse to be there but unfortunately hospice cannot resume care in a nursing home for thirty days. My aunt passed away before the 30 days. She was frightened in the nursing home with no familiar caregivers. If we had an inpatient hospice facility she would have been with the people she trusted her care with for the last 3 months of her life.

Sincerely,
Hebra Joye & Barbara Nasson
1113 Cowetta Lake Road
N Hills NC 28763

July 25, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

I am writing this letter in full support of building a Hospice House in Macon County. I have the privilege of working for Angel Hospice in Franklin, NC. Our goal is to offer the highest level of quality care to our patients. We are presently serving the needs of our terminally ill patients in their homes. Sometimes a patient will need more care than the family members, or hospice staff, can provide in the home. There are also residents in the community who have no caregiver, and presently have to go to a hospital, or care center for end of life care. A Hospice House will provide a home-like setting for patients to receive comfort care for themselves, as well as much needed emotional support for their families.

At the present time there is no Hospice House west of Asheville, NC. A Hospice House in Macon County would prove to be a huge asset for not only this county, but the surrounding counties, as well. Please help us to provide this much needed inpatient facility for those in need of quality end of life care in Macon County.

Thank You for your support of this very important project!

Sincerely,



Bette Balmer
Bereavement & Volunteer Coordinator
Angel Hospice

July 18, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T. J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

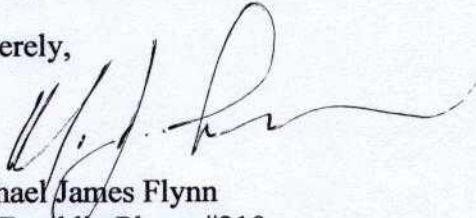
Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing this letter in support of Angel Hospice Foundation's petition to adjust the Hospice Inpatient Need Methodology in the 2008 State Medical Facilities Plan.

I have lived in Franklin, NC since the fall of 2001. From September 2005 to April 2006 I was employed by Angel Medical Center, Angel Hospice and Palliative Care as their Volunteer Coordinator. I left that position after having been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. During the time that I worked for Angel Hospice I learned how important hospice care is to this community and the great service they perform for its citizens. All of our patients were attended to in their homes. But, we often had situations where a patient needed hospice care but could not qualify for it because they did not have a full time caregiver available. As you may know, this area of Western North Carolina has a large elderly population many of whom, like myself, live alone and do not have family living nearby and also do not have the resources to hire care givers or move to a skilled nursing facility. By having a hospice inpatient facility people in this situation would have a chance at receiving hospice care. It would also provide a respite for caregivers of homebound patients.

I hope that your committee will give the Angel Hospice Foundation, Inc. petition your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Flynn', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael James Flynn
131 Franklin Plaza, #210
Franklin, NC 28734

**WestCare Home Health and Hospice
212 Sylva Plaza
Sylva, NC 28779**

July 26, 2007

Dr. T.J. Pulliam
State Health and Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HOSPICE FACILITY IN MACON COUNTY

I am writing this letter in support of Angel hospice Foundations petition to build a Hospice Inpatient facility in Macon County. I believe that this project will enhance the scope of services by providing both residential and inpatient hospice care to more effectively medically manage patients in a home like environment. It has been my experience that freestanding Hospice facilities are overwhelmingly successful. The hospice principles and practices are their primary goal. They have much better control over programs, services, quality and utilization and can provide theses services in a homelike setting.

While there is an inpatient facility in Asheville, it is located more than 60 miles away, over mountain areas. The availability of beds is first given to residents of Buncombe County. Admission to this facility has been refused because patients, caregivers and family feel it is too far to travel. The facility has also had a waiting list when we have inquired about rooms. Many patients who would benefit from care would be separated from their family and friends at a time when they need to be close. By going out of the area they would also leave their primary physician, church support and neighbors.

Western North Carolina is a rapidly growing area. Many of the patients who currently need hospice inpatient care for symptom management are admitted to an acute care hospital. The inpatient beds are more expensive. The hospital often requires labs and other test and does not specialize in the provision of interdisciplinary and holistic end of life care.

Thank You for your consideration in this matter. Hopefully the decision will be a positive one that will have a great impact on the care of the terminally ill patients in Western Carolina. We the If you should have any further questions please feel free to contact me at 828-586-7410.

Sincerely,

Barbara Klein, RN

Director
WestCare Home Health and Hospice

July 23, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

I have been a resident of Macon County since 1980, and have seen a lot of growth and change here. Almost 4 years ago, my sister became terminal and we enlisted the aid of the local Hospice organization to make her final days more comfortable and pleasant. She was a patient at one of our local Nursing/Rest homes. It was very hard on all the family. After she passed I became a Hospice Volunteer due to what I had learned of Hospice. My regret is that we do not have a Hospice House here in Macon County. There is such a need for a house that I urge you to assist us in procuring one. There is not a facility west of Asheville. All of the counties surrounding Macon would benefit greatly.

My entire family supports the Hospice theory, and seek your support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sallee Coss". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Sallee Coss
220 Cliff Dalrymple Road
Franklin, NC 28734

249 Bates Branch Rd.

Franklin, NC 28734

July 21, 2007

Dr. T. J. Pulliam, Chairman
State Health Coordinating Council
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

Having had both my mother and an aunt in Hospice Houses during their final stage of life, I realize how valuable such a facility is to those whose families can not care for them at those times.

Here in western N.C. there is a strong family ethic -- folks care for their own. There are also many "retirees" living here who are far from their families & when illness strikes they are often on their own. For either group, the "natives" and the "transplants" they wish to care for family or be cared for by family in one's own home may not always be possible. It is for this reason that I strongly feel there is a need here for a Hospice House. Please help us make it happen!

Sincerely,
Janet Hill

Michael and Nancy D. Falkenstein
119 Pinecrest Drive
Franklin, NC 28734

July 21, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T.J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Gentlemen:

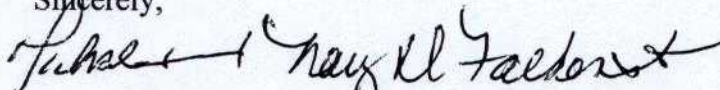
This letter is in support of the Angel Hospice Foundation's mission to obtain funds for the construction and endowment of an Inpatient Facility for our community and to support Hospice.

Personally, we have had a sister die in a nursing home with Hospice Care which for all was a horrific experience. Recently, we had Hospice Care for my mother-in-law in an Assisted Living Facility in Sarasota, Florida, where we saw first hand the difference. We know many hospice volunteers and understand and appreciate what Hospice does.

The need for an inpatient facility in Franklin to provide not only respite care, but care for those who do not have family close-by who can help, is a real one, and the need will become greater as time goes on. We hope to see in Franklin in the near future an Inpatient Hospice Facility that will serve not only Macon County residents but those west of Asheville in neighboring counties.

We trust you will support this project and the efforts of Angel Hospice Foundation.

Sincerely,


Michael and Nancy D. Falkenstein

*Dick and Molly Gray
79 Quail Ridge Road
Franklin, NC 28734
Phone: 828-342-9288
Email: dickandmolly@verizon.net*

July 23, 2007

Dr. T. J. Pulliam, Chair
State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term and Behavioral Health Committee
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

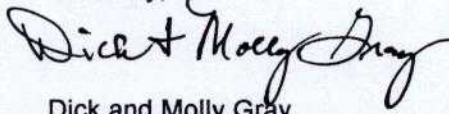
Dear Dr. Pulliam:

This letter is written in support of an inpatient facility for hospice care to be constructed in Franklin, NC. There are frequently hospice individuals whose care requires more than what family members and hospice staff can provide in the home. We desperately need an inpatient hospice facility to meet these needs.

At the present time, there is not a Hospice House west of Asheville. A Hospice House in Franklin can reach beyond our own Macon County to serve patients and their families in all counties from Asheville to Murphy.

Please seriously consider adjusting the hospice inpatient need methodology for Angel Hospice in Franklin in the 2008 State Medical Facilities Plan. We NEED a Hospice House and will greatly appreciate your assistance in paving the way toward the this goal of our Hospice Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick & Molly Gray".

Dick and Molly Gray



1480 AM
THE DOVE

WITH PRAISE FOR JESUS

July 20, 2007

State Health Coordinating Council
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
Dr. T. J. Pulliam, Chair
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

I am writing this letter in full support of a "Hospice House" (Inpatient Facility) in Macon County.

As an American Cancer Society volunteer, I am keenly aware of the situation many families find themselves when a loved one is diagnosed with a terminal illness. In many cases, it takes them by surprise and is certainly something they neither expect, nor make plans for, as a family. A Hospice House would be a wonderful way to keep a caregiver close to their own extended family while being near their loved one.

As a Cancer Survivor, I know the uncertainties of a serious disease only make us want to be as close as possible to those we trust and love. A Hospice House would facilitate this need if, in fact, it became necessary for our families to place us there.

A Hospice House in Macon County is a much needed facility and, in my opinion, would be a God-send to our area.

Sincerely,

Brenda Wooten

Brenda Wooten
Community Events Coordinator
WPFJ Radio
Franklin, N. C.

185 Franklin Plaza
Franklin, NC 28734
828-369-5033

www.wpfj.com

WPFJ 1480 AM STEREO

[Print Message](#)[Close this window](#)

From glen547@charter.net
Date 2007/07/21 Sat AM 08:14:17 CDT
To warren.schmidt@verizon.net
Subject Letter

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

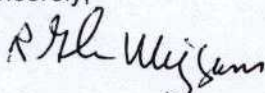
I have been a practicing medical oncologist for over 30 years and hospice care has always been an integral part of terminal care for my patients. My initial practice was in New Haven, CT where the first Hospice House in the nation was built. It was a huge success and provided a very much needed facility for patients to experience their last days in dignity and comfort with surrounding family.

I now practice in Athens, GA and we have recently had a Hospice House built in our community. I wholeheartedly supported this venture both financially and spiritually. It has provided a much needed refuge for patients, who for whatever reason, are unable to spend their remaining days at home.

My wife and I have built a home in Highlands and for the last three years have spent as much time as possible in this lovely community. It has come to my attention that Macon County and the surrounding counties are in need of a Hospice House. The nearest facility is in Asheville, ninety minutes away, and this clearly is not a good option for families who want to spend quality time with their loved ones in their last days.

I strongly urge you to approve a Hospice House for Macon County - it truly will make a difference and enable patients with terminal illnesses to die with dignity surrounded by those who love them.

Sincerely,



R. Glen Wiggans, MD

Asheville PH
July 13, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING , STATE MEDICAL FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD 7/13/07
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Petitioner:

Angel Hospice & Palliative Care
170 Church Street
Franklin, NC 28734

DFS Health Planning
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JUL 13 2007

MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

Comments by:

Michele Alderson
Hospice Volunteer
Angel Hospice & Palliative Care

Angel Hospice and Palliative Care (AHPC) seeks to provide a comprehensive hospice care for terminally ill patients in Macon, Swain and Graham counties. By this petition, AHPC requests that State Health Coordinating Council adjust the need determination reflected in the 2007 State Medical Facilities Plan for Hospice Inpatient Bed Need to identify the need for four hospice inpatient beds and four residential beds.

There are currently two hospices in Macon County; AHPC and Highlands Cashiers Hospice. Patients receiving inpatient services upon discharge who would meet the requirements for placement in a hospice inpatient facility are not offered this option. Nursing homes are their only option for both these hospices.

I joined AHPC five years ago as a patient volunteer. I feel very privileged to serve our patients and families. We have forty-five volunteers in our hospice. Our volunteers have formed a 5013c Foundation. Our Mission is to obtain funds and endow an inpatient/residential hospice facility in our community. Our board members are not only from Macon County. Adjoining Jackson County is represented on our board by West Cares' Hospice Medical Director, and a family physician. These two doctors see the need for a hospice residence and are passionate about seeing it come to fruition for their patients.

We have strong community support for our mission. Donations are already coming in, even though we have not begun our capital campaign.

The closest inpatient facility is in Asheville, which is 75 miles from our county. Our county is one of the fastest growing counties in western North Carolina. We have one of the largest retirement communities west of Asheville.

Hospice inpatient beds are sorely needed in Macon County to assure all patients, especially the underserved patients who are most vulnerable to limited resources and abilities, have access to this end - of - life health service.

Approval of this petition will allow AHPC the opportunity to submit a Certificate of Need application to develop a freestanding inpatient hospice facility.

We respectfully request that an adjustment be made to the need determination in the 2008 SMFP to identify the need for four Hospice Inpatient beds in Macon County.

Asheville PH
July 13, 2007

Name: Evelyn M. Byrnes

Address: 705 Highlands Cove Drive
Highlands, NC 28741

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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

I am here as Hospice Volunteer for the Highlands Cashiers Hospital and as a member of the Angel Hospice Foundation Board of Directors to support the approval of their current petition to establish a Hospice House for Western North Carolina patients.

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